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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT 1. Mikolajczyk's Prestige
2. Communist Control and Propaganda

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Mikolajczyk's Prestige

1. Mikolajczyk, after suffering a complete loss of influence in Poland during 1947, has regained considerable prestige as a result of his recent flight to England. His flight not only brought him to public notice again but aroused the Polish people's admiration by demonstrating Mikolajczyk's ability to outwit the regime. The people believe that Mikolajczyk could have accomplished nothing by remaining in Poland and therefore do not condemn his act of self-preservation. They censure him mildly, however, for failing to rescue Mrs. Hulewicz, his faithful secretary.

Communist Control and Propaganda

2. All political matters in Poland are channeled through the Soviet Embassy. Lebediev, the Soviet Ambassador is thus the virtual dictator of Poland.
3. Polish people are so confused by governmental propaganda that they have become somewhat credulous. One Pole, for example, although he had previously lived in England and the US, was prepared to believe Polish newspaper reports that US citizens were being arrested in the streets of US cities during an anti-Communist drive.

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